

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that Claims 11 and 20-23 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has complied with the suggested amendments as described below.

Since this response is in reply to a Final Office Action received in this case, Applicant affirms the amendments herein do not raise new issues, and no further search is required. Claims 6, 11, 17 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 7, 12-13, 18-19 and 21-23 are herein amended. Claims 7-10, 12-16, 18-19, and 21-23 remain in the case.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the comments in paragraph 9 of the Final Office action that provide a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 11 and 20-23. Since Claim 11 depends only from Claim 7, Applicant has amended Claim 7 to include all the subject matter of Claim 11, and respectfully submits that Claim 7 as well as Claims 8-10, that depend from Claim 7 as amended, are allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests the multiple rejections for Claims 7-10 be withdrawn.

Similarly, Claim 12 is herein amendment to include the single event pipe structure from Claim 11 in accordance with the Specification as well as the above remarks regarding the amendment to Claim 7 (Specification page 7 ll. 1-21). Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 12 is allowable based on the suggested amendments regarding Claim 11 in the Final Office Action and remarks regarding Claims 7 and 11.

Applicant respectfully requests the rejection for Claim 12 be withdrawn.

Since Claim 20 depends only on the dependent Claim 17 and the independent Claim 13, Applicant has amended Claim 13 is to include all the subject matter of Claims 17 and 20.

In accordance with the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter regarding Claims 20-23 in the Final Office Action and the remarks regarding Claim 7 above, Claim 13 is similarly amended to recite the subject matter of Claims 17 and 20. Further, the claims that depend from the cancelled Claims 17 and 20, respectively, are amended to depend from Claim 13. Specifically, Claims 18-19 and 21-23 are amended to depend from Claim 13. Applicant respectfully submits that since Claim 13 is allowable based on the above comments, that Claims 14-16, 18-19, and 21-23 are also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests the rejections for Claims 13-16 and 18-19 be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection for Claims 21-23 be withdrawn.



Patent
NPO-20148-2-CU

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are allowable over the cited references and earnestly requests allowance of all pending claims.

If there are any questions with regard to prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at (818) 354-7770.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on:

April 8, 2004

Date

by:

John H. Kusmiss

Printed Name

John H. Kusmiss

Signature

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Kusmiss

John H. Kusmiss
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,149
Telephone: (818) 354-7770